

## IMMERSE: KINGDOMS

Week 7 – The Angel of the LORD

July 24, 2022

What led up to the time of the Judges? The Bible is one story/one narrative. ONE STORY/ONE NARRATIVE?

In Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, God laid before Israel blessings and curses. Moses had told the children of Israel to proclaim the blessings from Mount Gerizim and the curses from Mount Ebal when they entered the land of promise (Deut. 11:26-29; Deut. 27 & 28). If the Israelites disobeyed God the curses would come upon them. If they obeyed God, they would receive blessings.

What happened in Joshua?

The children of Israel entered the land of promise that God had promised Abraham in Genesis. Circumcision of all the men. Committing themselves to God. Celebration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Passover since the first Passover in Egypt. GOD gave the children of Israel the battle strategy to fight Jericho. Defeated Jericho. Then individuals began to disobey God.

In Joshua 8 the curses were yelled from Mount Ebal and blessings from Mount Gerizim.

Joshua conquered much of the land. Conquered 31 kings. Joshua divided the remainder of the land to the tribes. It was each tribe's responsibility to get rid of the Canaanites. They did not.

### Judges 1:27-36

Israel disobeyed God's commandment to utterly destroy the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites which resulted in what God had told them would occur – the practices and sinfulness of the people from the land of Canaan would greatly influence the children of Israel. And so we read of an extended period (approx. 265 years) of anarchy and moral decay which characterized the period of the Judges. The Israelites turned from God. To bring them back to Himself, God disciplined His people by allowing them to fall under the oppressive domination of their enemies. But God's mercy and grace were poured out on the children of Israel. Why? God had made an unconditional covenant with Israel through Abraham. God obligated Himself to deliver on the promises of the land, seed (descendants/THE Seed), and blessing. God is faithful!

*Judges 2:1-6 - Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: "I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you.'<sup>2</sup> And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars." But you have not obeyed My*

*voice. Why have you done this? <sup>3</sup> Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.' "* <sup>4</sup> So it was, when the Angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept. <sup>5</sup> Then they called the name of that place Bochim;

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*and they sacrificed there to the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.*

### Observations

While Israel continued to sin through NOT getting rid of all the Canaanites NEVERTHELESS... (Judges 2:16) *Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.* When the children of Israel eventually cried out to God for deliverance, God graciously rescued them by raising up a judge who was considered to be a deliverer. As a result of God's deliverance, the Israelites rededicated themselves to Yahweh. This led to enjoying God's blessing once more. But after a time of blessing the people again apostatized and the cycle began anew. A new judge came on the scene. "Judges" – deliverers. There were multiple "judges". There was judge after judge because THE ultimate JUDGE, THE MESSIAH had not yet come to dwell. The people were awaiting THE DELIVERER! We see a Messianic theme in the very existence of the Judges.

God has revealed Himself throughout Scripture. God's presence is noted in: the "face," "appearance," or "presence" of God – *panim*, and in His glory – *kavod* (weightiness – ALL Who God is – ALL His attributes). And so it is very in keeping with God's revelations of Himself that we meet **The** "Angel of the LORD." This Angel is NOT "an" Angel. He is "THE" Angel. Angel means messenger – having a WORD. Who is THE WORD? Jesus. John 1:1 - *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was/is God!* It is likely that the Angel of the LORD was God Himself, appearing in a human form?! There are frequent Old Testament appearances of the Angel of the LORD that indicate that it is God Himself.

God the Father is described in Scripture as being a Spirit (John 4:24 - *God is Spirit*, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. I Tim. 1:17 - *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God.* I Tim. 6:16 - *who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen* WHO is GOD appearing in a human form? He is IMMANUEL! IMMANUEL – God in the flesh (Isa. 7:14 – a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son)! God the Son – Jesus!

I'm strongly suggesting that THE Angel of the LORD is a pre-Bethlehem/pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus – God the Son!

AND, God the SON is ETERNALLY GOD THE SON. He is Jesus the same yesterday, today, and forever!

He is THE Angel of the LORD Whom we only read about in the OT. We do NOT read about THE Angel of the LORD in the NT!!!!!!

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The Angel of the LORD is coming from Gilgal where, at the moment, the children of Israel were NOT! They had been in Gilgal where GOD had brought them – after HE had essentially carried them over the Jordan River!

It was in Gilgal, their first camp in the Promised Land, that the Israelites made a solemn dedication of themselves to God on their entrance into the Promised Land (Josh. 4:1-9).

In Judges 2, as the Angel of the LORD comes from Gilgal, He comes to AWAKEN Israel as He reminds them of their commitment to Him and rebukes them of their apostasy!

We know that the Angel of the LORD is Jesus firstly, because the Angel of the LORD claimed to be God by saying that He was the One Who led Israel up from Egypt, who made a covenant with Israel ([Judges 2:1](#)), and who personally called Israel to obedience ([Judges 2:2](#)). Secondly, because this person, appearing in human form before Israel, cannot be God the Father, because the Father is described as *invisible* ([1 Timothy 1:17](#)) and *whom no man has seen or can see* ([1 Timothy 6:16](#)).

The angel of the Lord speaks as God, identifies Himself with God, and exercises the responsibilities of God ([Genesis 16:7-12](#); [21:17-18](#); [22:11-18](#); [31:11](#); [Exodus 3:2](#); **[Judges 2:1-4](#)**; **[5:23](#)**; **[6:11-24](#)** [2 appearances]; **[13:3-22](#)**; [2 Samuel 24:16](#); [Zechariah 1:12](#); [3:1](#); [12:8](#)). The Angel of the Lord appears more times in the book of Judges highlighting God's Grace! (Genesis is a close 2<sup>nd</sup>)??????

The second appearance of the Angel of the LORD in the book of Judges...with background

[Judges 6:1-6](#) – Gideon and the Midianites

Midian was the son of Abraham and Keturah, one of Abraham's concubines ([Genesis 25:2-6](#)).

The Midianites were traders. Joseph's brothers sold him to the Midianites who then took Joseph to Egypt where they sold him as a slave ([Genesis 37:28, 36](#)).

When Moses fled from Egypt after killing an Egyptian, he went to Midian where he encountered a Midianite priest. Moses married his daughter, Zipporah, and had two sons by her ([Exodus 2:15-22](#)).

The Midianites were a nomadic people who lived SE of Israel, across the Jordan River – in what is now Jordan.

At harvest time, after the children of Israel had worked the land, the Midianites crossed the Jordan and attacked Israel and took their bounty from the earth. It was at this time that Israel cried out to God for deliverance.

Judges 6:11-12 - *Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup> And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, “The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!”*

Judges 6:13-23

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Before entering battle, Gideon’s troops numbered 32,000, but in obedience to God he reduced them by 22,000 (Judges 7:2-3). Again in obedience to God he decreased the remaining 10,000 by a further 9,700, leaving him with just 300 men (vss. 7-8). This was against an enemy that is described as “thick as locusts” with “camels as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore” (Judges 7:12).

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to Samson’s parents.

Judges 13:1-22

The judges were failures. And so we look forward to a future King Who would be Whom? The Messiah.

Another purpose for which judges is in Scripture – we see so clearly God’s sovereign grace in preserving Israel in spite of herself. Why did Israel continue as a nation while repeatedly failing in their belief and obedience? Because God had chosen her as His instrument to bring blessing to the rest of mankind (Gen. 12:1-3) Israel failed BUT GOD remained faithful.

The book of Joshua highlights God’s hatred of sin...the book of Judges magnifies God’s faithfulness to His covenant with Israel and God’s GRACE

Ruth 1:1 - *Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled....*

Whom do we meet in the book of Ruth?

And so Judges looks forward to THE perfect JUDGE and KING – the Lord Jesus the Messiah Who gives perfect rest in the perfect kingdom on earth – in the Millennial Kingdom.